UNMASKING THE TARIFF DELUSION

Franklin Pierce Shows That Labor is Not Benefited by Unjust Tax.

MANUFACTURER KEEPS PROFIT

Proof of Democratic Platform's Soundness Cited in Reports of Wage Investigations.

By FRANKLIN PIERCE.

For a hundred years of our history the manufacturers, believing that they received a benefit from the protective ariffs, have ingeniously devised plausible pretexts for imposing increased prices upon the necessaries of life. At first they said that industry in our country was in its infancy and needed protection. When those industries had become strong and needed no aid the manufacturers invented the theory that the foreigner paid the duty. This theory was exploded, and they declared that cheap clothing meant cheap

men and was not a blessing. Briven from every one of these indefensible positions, their final and only argument left today is that the tariff is imposed upon foreign imports to enable the manufacturer to increase his profits and pay higher wages. The Democratic platform declares

"In the most highly protected industries, such as cotton and wool, steel and iron, the wages of the laborers are the lowest paid in any of our indus-

Proof of this statement is found in reports of many recent official investigations of wages in the United States. Wages In Cotton Industry.

Under the existing Payne-Aldrich tariff law actual imports of cotton cloth paid in 1910 average duties of 56.4 per cent.

In 1905, when work and wage conditions in the cotton industry were exceptionally good, the wages of 202,211 cotton mill operatives in the United States-men, women and children-averaged only \$6.47 a week. The average wage for men was but \$7.71 a week. for women \$6.30 and for children, \$3.21. As to the profits, seventeen leading cotton mills, with total capitalization

of \$25,110,000 and total surplus of \$21. 263,501, paid in nine years dividends averaging 22 per cent. The cotton manufacturers turned out In 1995 \$442,451,218 worth of goods and

paid in wages therefore \$94,337,695, or 2) per cent, of the value of the finished

Extertion of Wool Tariff. Outside of the duties on two or three commedities of comparatively little importance, the duties on woolen cloth are the highest of any in the tariff schedules. According to Senator Reed Smoot, owner of a woolen mill at Prevost, Utah, and chairman of the finance committee in charge of tariff legislation in the senate, wearing apparel valued at 30 cents a pound now pays 206 2-3 per cent, duty.

This and other correspondingly high duties on the manufactures of wool are made to enable the manufacturer to pay his labor an increased wage over those of foreign countries. But the duty on woolen goods is nearly five times the entire labor cost, while the American manufacturers in 1905 paid in wages only 18 per cent, of the total value of their produ

At Lawrence in this most highly protected industry the laborers were obliged to strike even for a living wage. Thousands of adult males were receiving only from \$6 to \$9 a week and many only \$5 to \$6 a week. As a result of the strike the American Woolen company gave its employees slight increases in wages.

The wool tariff bill vetoed by President Taft reduced the duties on raw weol from 42.20 to 29 per cent and on manufactures of wool from 87.65 to 48.36 per cent. Mr. Taft said he ve toed it because the proposed rates did not comply with the findings of the turiff board. Senator La Follette contradicted the president, saying that the proposed rates varied from 1 per cent. lower to 11.6 higher than the tariff board's findings justified.

Low Wages in Steel. Manufacturers of iron and steel in 1905 paid in wages only 15 per cent. of the total value of their production. while the duty then would average about 45 to 47 per cent., and on all metals it now averages 34.51 per cent. American wages are really the cheapest wages in the world when you

take into account the amount of production per man. An illustration of this appears in

the Stanley report, investigating the steel trust, as follows: "The labor cost of producing pig

iron'in Pennsylvania fell from \$1.25 a ton in 1902 to 82 cents a ton in 1909 yet the realized value of the pig iron output was \$15.64 in 1902, whereas it was \$17.44 in 1909. In other words wageworkers in 1902 got \$1.25 for pro ducing only \$15.64 worth of pig iron and in 1909 only 82 cents for producing \$17.44 worth.

While thus treating labor the industrial combinations that have grown up under the protection of the tariff have fixed the prices of commodities at the highest point the home market would stand. For twelve years they have been unjustly transferring through the protection tariff billions of dollars from the earnings of labor into their own pockets

When will the laboring men of the the cutry cast off this delusion that the turn in for their benefit and with their votes strike down this monstrous

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A. D. 1912. LOUISE RODACH, Administratrix.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Sylvester Kitchell, administrator of the estate of John Wallace, deceased, will make Final Settlement of his accounts with said estate as such administrator at the next term of the Probate Court of Iron County, Missouri, to be holden at Ironton, in said county, on the 11th day of November, A. D. 1912. SYLVESTER KITCHELL,

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